

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 XMB-07 DOTE-00 OPIC-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SPC-03 DRC-01 /085 W

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R 051000Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4938

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0868

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD - STATUS OF FINANCING AND ROUTE PLANNING

REF: STATE 193897, 195057

1. AS PART OF CONTINUING EMBASSY EFFORTS UPDATE INFORMATION REGARDING PLANNING AND FINANCING FOR TRANSGABON, EMBOFF CALLED DURING PAST WEEK ON MINFINANCE MOUKAMBI AND ON FRG AND FRENCH EMBASSIES.

2. MOUKAMBI SAID FINANCING FOM PUBLIC SOURCES REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS SET FORTH BY PROSPECTIVE DONORS JULY 11 IN BRUSSELS. HE ADDED THAT GOG CURRENTLY ALSO SEEKING PRIVATE FINANCING IN US, EUROPE, AND JAPAN. HE DECLINED TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS. WE BELIEVE THAT GOG IS HOLDING AND WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD CLOSELY THIS INFORMATION. DOUBTFUL THAT GOG HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL TO DATE IN TAPPING PRIVATE EUROPEAN SOURCES OF FINANCING (OTHER THAN EURODOLLAR COMMITMENT OBTAINED BY IVOR B. CLARK). WE WILL BE QUERYING JAPANESE NEXT OPPORTUNITY.

3. RE: MAKING MOANDA ROUTE SECOND PHASE, MOUKAMBI CONFIRMED SIMPLY THAT STUDY WAS UNDERWAY.

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4. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS INFORMATION ONLY ON VARIOUS

GOVERNMENTS' COMMITMENTS MADE IN BRUSSELS. FRENCH ALSO AWARE OF GOG EFFORTS TO LINE UP PRIVATE FINANCING IN EUROPE, BUT SAY THEY HAVE NO DETAILS.

5. FRG EMBASSY TELLS US THAT GOG HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN BY A NUMBER OF PRIVATE SOURCES IN GERMANY, NOTABLY KREDIT ANSTALT FUR WIEDERAUFBAU WHICH IS DESIGNED TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LDC'S. GERMANS STATE THEIR FIRM PHILIPP HOLZMANN COMPLETING ENGINEERING SURVEY BOOUE/MOANDA. THEY STRESS THAT SURVEY IS PURELY TECHNICAL AND WILL NOT ASSESS ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF ROUTE. DATA FOR LAST 50 KM REMAINS TO BE INCORPORATED IN FINAL HOLZMANN REPORT WHICH EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED TO GOG WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. AFTER DELIVERY OF HOLZMANN REPORT WE MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME PORTIONS, BUT OF COURSE, SINCE HOLZMANN HOPING TO BE NAMED EVENTUAL CONTRACTOR FOR PROJECT, FIRM WILL NOT BE VERY KEEN TO RELEASE ITS DATA.  
MCKESSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, RAILROADS, FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LIBREV00868  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS MCKESSON  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 193897, 195057  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSGABON RAILROAD - STATUS OF FINANCING AND ROUTE PLANNING  
**TAGS:** BEXP, GB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005